



Connecticut Boxing Commission

February 7, 2013

HB5277 (Mixed Martial Arts)

Public Safety & Security Committee

Sen. Hartley, Rep. Dargan and members of the Public Safety Committee, my name is Jim Krayeske. I am chairman of the Connecticut Boxing Commission.

I am here to testify on HB5277, An Act Legalizing and Regulating Mixed Martial Arts. I understand the proposal is to allow professional mixed martial arts events to be held in Connecticut by inserting MMA into existing boxing statutes and regulations.

From an economic and consumer entertainment perspective, this makes a lot of sense.

The boxing commission does offer one important caution however. One of the foundations of the boxing statutes is to protect the health and safety of the participants. This is done on both a professional and amateur basis for the sport of boxing.

If MMA is to become legal in Connecticut, it is critical that the amateur side of the sport is included. There is no logic to protect young amateur boxers in the various clubs and gyms across the state, but let amateur MMA enthusiasts spar and fight unregulated.

Amateur boxing is a highly regulated activity under the Department of Public Safety. We believe a lack of attention to the fast growing participation and interest in MMA at the amateur level could leave the state open to liability by turning a blind eye to what is deemed assaultive behavior under current law.

Both sports offer a great outlet for mostly at-risk youths for a positive after school experience that teaches important lesson such as discipline and commitment.

If we move ahead with MMA, it is vitally important to consider the health and safety needs of the amateur participants as well as professionals.

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